



# **Hector De La Torre**

## **News Release**

*Assembly Member 50<sup>th</sup> District*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Assembly Accountability Committee Seeks Transparency in Stimulus Implementation**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – In order to provide Californians with useful tools to assess how federal stimulus dollars are being put to use, the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee today voted unanimously to request that all state agencies provide information on their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) expenditures in a uniform format, report on new jobs created with federal stimulus dollars, and make this information available on their websites. The action came following the committee's hearing into ways to ensure transparency and accountability for all federal stimulus funds administered by the state.

"Our approach to stimulus has to be two-part," Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) said. "We need to make sure California gets as much stimulus funding as possible and we need to be sure we get that funding back out into the economy quickly, effectively and transparently. The Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee's actions today will help do just that."

"Taxpayers have given our federal and state governments an incredible opportunity," Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) said. "With this new infusion of federal dollars, we have a renewed responsibility to provide Californians with easily available, straightforward and simple information. Providing clear transparency allows people to look at what dollars and programs are being spent and will help them identify the investment in their communities."

Assemblymember De La Torre is the Chair of the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee.

California is expected to receive approximately \$31 billion in federal aid under ARRA, including major investments in health, education, transportation, labor and workforce development and criminal justice programs. The federal stimulus package includes unprecedented accountability and transparency requirements, which could trigger penalties if they are not fulfilled. The Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee convened representatives of the state agencies that are expected to receive the majority of ARRA funds, as well as the agencies responsible for monitoring expenditures. The Committee also heard from State Auditor Elaine Howle on importance of audit safeguards regarding these expenditures.

**Website of Speaker Karen Bass:** [www.asm.ca.gov/speaker](http://www.asm.ca.gov/speaker)

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